



Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress

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The Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) would like to express its support for the proposed revision in the 10th Grade textbook curriculum to include the history of the thousands of women who were used as sexual slaves in Asia by the Japanese military during World War II. We believe that this largest human trafficking of women from 11 different countries must be taught as a lesson about the importance of protecting human rights and women's rights.

NCRR helped to lead a grassroots campaign to win redress and reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. As a result of the victory in 1988, the US Government paid individual reparations, issued a letter of apology to each person whose rights were violated and appropriated monies for education of the American public. We believe that ongoing education is most important in preventing similar violations of constitutional rights from happening again today.

With that in mind, the US Congress in 2007 unanimously passed Resolution 121, urging the Japanese government to 1) formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner, 2) have this official apology given as a public statement presented by the Prime Minister of Japan in his official capacity, 3) clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the 'comfort women' for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and 4) educate current and future generations about this horrible crime while following the recommendations of the international community with respect to the 'comfort women.'

Just as our community voiced its demands at a Congressional hearing in 1981, so too these women, now in their 80's and euphemistically called "Comfort Women" but known to many of us as Grandmas, have voiced their demands to the Japanese government. They too are models of how to fight injustice and young people can learn from their example.

Thankfully, the history of America's concentration camps is now included in the California textbooks and we continue to work on curriculum and workshops for teachers. We thank you for your leadership and efforts to include this important and little known history in the school curriculum and would also support efforts to develop workshops for teachers to enhance their understanding of human trafficking then and now.

On Behalf of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress
Kathy Masaoka, Co Chair